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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/764,323

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Srikumar Chari

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EXAMINER

LONG, ANDREA NATAE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/764,323

Applicant(s)

CHARI ET AL.

Examiner

Andrea N. Long

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/27/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2-3, 4, 5, 9-11, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kyon Holman (Dell OpenManage Network Manager, November 17, 2003)**, hereinafter "**Dell**" in view of **Blakely-Fogel et al (US Patent 4864492)**, hereinafter "**Blakely-Fogel**".

For the convenience of the Applicant, the Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art(s) of record in the body of this action. Although the specified citations are representations of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. The Applicant should consider the entire reference(s) as applicable as to the limitations of the claims.

As to independent claim 1, Dell teaches a method for integrated audit and configuration comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second set of configuration information; receiving the first configuration information (page 18, Figure 9 □ taught as user being able to select two files from a list of files and selecting the compare button);

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison information; displaying the comparison information (page 18, Figure 10 □ taught as the result of selecting the compare button, the information within each configuration file is compared with each other by displaying a side by side comparison of the two configuration files);

choosing one or more action mechanisms to provide to the user for each of then one or more parameters based on the comparison information; and enabling the user to perform one or more actions associated with the one or more action mechanisms (page 18, Figure 10 □ taught as the “<<” and “>>” buttons which allow the user to navigate through the difference between the two files). Dell, however does not explicitly teach generating instructions based on the user’s actions, and applying changes to the first configuration information.

Blakely-Fogel teaches a knowledge base within a configuration system which contains rules for a specific network environment, interdependencies of user parameters, references and integrity, values such as limits and defaults (column 2 lines 18-25). Additionally

Blakely-Fogel teaches after the user selecting to compare the configuration file with a knowledge base, a user interface is presented to display knowledge needed to correct the errors.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the function to correct errors within the configuration file as an additional option as a button executable by a user with the system of Dell to allow the configuration files to easily be maintained and debugged.

As to dependent claim 2, Dell teaches where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of one or more parameter values; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises comparing the values of the one or more parameters in the first configuration information with corresponding parameter values from the set of one or more parameter values from the second set of configuration information (page 18 and 19, Figure 10 □taught as comparing the first configuration file with the second configuration file and highlighting parameters that are different).

As to dependent claim 3, Dell teaches a second set of configuration information and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second configuration. However, Dell does not teach where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of one or more rules; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of the first configuration information with respect to the set of one or more rules. Blakely-Fogel teaches a knowledge base within a configuration system which contains rules for a specific

network environment, interdependencies of user parameters, references and integrity, values such as limits and defaults (column 2 lines 18-25).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a configuration file with rules to analyze another configuration file to exclude the user having to have personal knowledge of protocols of the network architecture and allows a user to configure a complex program in order to establish communications over a network (column 1 line 68 to column 2 line 2, column 2 lines 65-68).

As to dependent claim 4, Dell teaches where the actions comprise user input actions and the action mechanisms comprise a user input action mechanism (page 18 □taught as the user selecting buttons to compare and navigate through configuration files).

As to dependent claim 5, Dell teaches receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more actions; and performing the one action (page 18 □taught as the user selecting actions to format, highlight differences and change the views of the configuration files).

As to dependent claim 9, Dell teaches where the first configuration information comprises the configuration for a configurable system; the configurable system includes one or more configurable devices (switches); and the first configuration information is for each of the one or more configurable devices; and where the step of receiving the first configuration information comprises obtaining the first configuration information for each of the one or more configurable devices (page 18 and 19).

As to dependent claim 10, note the discussion above, Dell teaches where the second set of configuration information is one set of second configuration information; and where the method further comprises the step of selecting the second set of configuration information based on the request from the user (page 18).

As to dependent claim 11, note the discussion above, Dell teaches where the second set of configuration information is one set of second configuration information; and where the method further comprises the step of selecting the second set of configuration information based on one or more sets of configuration information for a device to be configured (page 18).

As to dependent claim 13, Dell teaches one or more actions. However Dell does not teach where the one or more actions comprise one or more fix actions, and the one or more action mechanisms comprise one or more fix action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with the fix action mechanism comprises changing a parameter value associated with a particular fix action mechanism based on a corresponding parameter value in the second set of configuration information. Blakely-Fogel teaches after the user selecting to compare the configuration file with a knowledge base, a user interface is presented to display knowledge needed to correct the errors.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the fix action mechanism with changing a parameter value to allow the program to easily be maintained and debugged.

As to dependent claim 14, Dell teaches where the one or more actions comprise one or more user input actions, and the one or more action mechanisms comprise one or more user input

action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with a particular user input action mechanism comprises the steps of: obtaining user input for a parameter value associated with the particular user input action mechanism; and changing the parameter value associated with the particular user input action mechanism based on the user input (page 18 ¶taught as the user selecting buttons to compare and navigate through configuration files).

4. Claim 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell in view of Blakely-Fogel in further view of Kraft, IV (US Patent 6880107 B1), hereinafter “Kraft”.

As to dependent claim 6, Dell teaches where the second request is one of one or more requests to perform actions, and where the method further comprises the step of performing the one or more corresponding actions based on the one or more requests to perform actions (page 18 ¶taught as the user selecting actions to format, highlight differences and change the views of the configuration files). However, Dell does not teach where performing the one or more corresponding actions comprises constructing new configuration information based on the first configuration information and each action. Kraft teaches and authoring or editing tool that allows a user to modify a configuration file to reflect on the modification of another configuration file (column 2 lines 34-36).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the configuration file of Dell with the modification and the constructing of a new

file of Kraft to insure that the configuration files are maintained with appropriate format, syntax, and parameter values (column 2 lines 40-42).

As to dependent claim 7, note the discussion above, Dell as modified by Kraft teaches a new configuration file and displaying a summary of problems. However Dell as modified by Kraft does not teach checking the new configuration against an object model of acceptable configurations; if the changes are not acceptable, displaying a summary of problems. Blakely-Fogel teaches a knowledge base within a configuration system which contains rules for a specific network environment, interdependencies of user parameters, references and integrity, values such as limits and defaults (column 2 lines 18-25).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a configuration file with rules to analyze another configuration file to exclude the user having to have personal knowledge of protocols of the network architecture and allows a user to configure a complex program in order to establish communications over a network (column 1 line 68 to column 2 line 2, column 2 lines 65-68).

As to dependent claim 8, note the discussion above, Dell as modified by Kraft teaches a new configuration is the configuration for a configurable system (column 2 lines 34-36), the configurable system includes one or more configurable devices; and where the method further comprises the steps of column 1 line 65 through column 2 line 2). However Dell as modified by Kraft does not teach receiving a third request to submit the changes, checking the new configuration information against an object model of acceptable configurations, and if the changes are acceptable, configuring the configurable system. Blakely-Fogel teaches comparing a

configuration file with a knowledge base and the information within the configuration file has to be correct in order for the system to configure (column 4 lines 3-22).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the new configuration file of Dell as modified by Kraft with the knowledge base of Blakely-Fogel to maintain the integrity of the configuration file and which allows programs to be easier to maintain and easier to debug (column 2 lines 55-58 and column 4 lines 21-22).

5. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell in view of Blakely-Fogel in further view of Ames et al (US Patent 6151567), hereinafter "Ames".

As to dependent claim 12, Dell teaches one or more actions. However, Dell does not teach toggle actions. Ames teaches toggle actions, and toggle action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with a particular toggle action mechanism comprises changing a parameter value associated with the particular toggle action mechanism (column 16 lines 28-41 → taught as user toggling between parameters to update the parameters)

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the actions of Dell to include toggling of Ames to allow complete flexibility of the configuration file parameters (column 16 lines 37-41).

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell in view of Blakely-Fogel in further view of Andrade et al (US Patent 7024660 B2), hereinafter "Andrade".

As to dependent claim 15, Dell teaches actions and mechanisms. However, Dell does not teach where the actions comprise a wizard action, and action mechanisms comprise one or more wizard action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with a particular wizard action mechanism comprises the step of running a wizard associated with the particular wizard action mechanism. Andrade teaches a configuration wizard that receives user inputs to lead user through the configuration process (column 12 lines 20-28).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the configuration system of Dell with the configuration wizard of Andrade to bridge the gap between ease and flexibility (column 13 lines 24-26).

7. Claims 16 and 18-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell in view of Blakely-Fogel in further view of Kraft.

As to independent claim 16, Dell teaches a method for integrated audit and configuration comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second set of configuration information, obtaining the first configuration information, and receiving the first configuration information (page 18, Figure 9 □ taught as user being able to select two files from a list of files and selecting the compare button).

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison information and displaying the comparison information (page 18, Figure 10 □ taught as the result of selecting the compare button, the information within each configuration file is compared with each other by displaying a side by side comparison of the two configuration files);

choosing one or more action mechanisms to provide to the user for each of the one or more parameters based on the comparison information, enabling the user to perform one or more actions associated with the one or more action mechanisms (page 18, Figure 10 □ taught as the “<<” and “>>” buttons which allow the user to navigate through the difference between the two files);

receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more actions (page 18 □ taught as the user selecting actions to format, highlight differences and change the views of the configuration files). However Dell does not teach where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of one or more rules ; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of the first configuration information with respect to the set of one or more rules and performing the one action, where performing the action comprises constructing new

configuration information based on the first configuration information and the one action.

Blakely-Fogel teaches a knowledge base within a configuration system which contains rules for a specific network environment, interdependencies of user parameters, references and integrity, values such as limits and defaults (column 2 lines 18-25). Kraft teaches and authoring or editing tool that allows a user to modify a configuration file to reflect on the modification of another configuration file (column 2 lines 34-36).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combine the comparing configuration system of Dell and the knowledge base of Blakely-Fogel with the new configuration of Kraft to exclude the user having to have personal knowledge of protocols of the network architecture and allows a user to configure a complex program in order to establish communications over a network (column 1 line 68 to column 2 line 2, column 2 lines 65-68, of Blakely Fogel) and to insure that the configuration files are maintained with appropriate format, syntax, and parameter values (column 2 lines 40-42, of Kraft)

As to independent claims 18, 19, 20 and 21 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 16.

8. Claims 17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chris Hardie (Computer Security Audit Checklist, 2003), hereinafter “Hardie” in view of Dell in further view of Blakely-Fogel in further view of Kraft.

As to independent claim 17, Hardie teaches a method providing an integrated security audit and security configuration for a network device (page 1). However, Hardie does not teach the below mentioned computer implemented steps. Dell teaches receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second set of configuration information, obtaining the first configuration information, and receiving the first configuration information (page 18, Figure 9 □ taught as user being able to select two files from a list of files and selecting the compare button).

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison information and displaying the comparison information (page 18, Figure 10 □ taught as the result of selecting the compare button, the information within each configuration file is compared with each other by displaying a side by side comparison of the two configuration files);

choosing one or more action mechanisms to provide to the user for each of the one or more parameters based on the comparison information, enabling the user to perform one or more actions associated with the one or more action mechanisms (page 18, Figure 10 □ taught as the “<<” and “>>” buttons which allow the user to navigate through the difference between the two files);

receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more actions (page 18 □taught as the user selecting actions to format, highlight differences and change the views of the configuration files). However Dell does not teach where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of one or more rules ; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of the first configuration information with respect to the set of one or more rules and performing the one action, where performing the action comprises constructing new configuration information based on the first configuration information and the one action. Blakely-Fogel teaches a knowledge base within a configuration system which contains rules for a specific network environment, interdependencies of user parameters, references and integrity, values such as limits and defaults (column 2 lines 18-25). Kraft teaches and authoring or editing tool that allows a user to modify a configuration file to reflect on the modification of another configuration file (column 2 lines 34-36).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have a security audit and security configuration system which includes the comparing configuration system of Dell and the knowledge base of Blakely-Fogel with the new configuration of Kraft to exclude the user having to have personal knowledge of protocols of the network architecture and allows a user to configure a complex program in order to establish communications over a network (column 1 line 68 to column 2 line 2, column 2 lines 65-68, of Blakely Fogel) and to insure that the configuration files are maintained with appropriate format, syntax, and parameter values (column 2 lines 40-42, of Kraft) and to provide a detailed, action-

oriented report, empowering the user with insight and advice you need to bring an application security under control.

As to independent claim 22 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 17.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's request for an interview after the first action is noted, and is urged to contact the Examiner to schedule a date and time conduct the interview.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea N. Long whose telephone number is 571-270-1055. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs 6:00 am to 3:00 pm EST.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andrea Long
01/17/2008


WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER